

State & Federal Elections Calendar

Deadlines & Citations

State and Federal Elections Calendar

Deadlines and Citations

January 16 - February 14

Nomination of County Board Members

(30 day period before February 15)

During this time each year, the county chairs and vice chairs of each political party* county committee, and the state committeeman and committeewoman of each of such two (2) political parties shall meet and jointly nominate one (1) person for member of the county board.

N.J.S.A. 19:6-18

*Under current law, the Democratic and Republican parties are the only "recognized political parties in New Jersey."

February 15

Evening Registration Plan

On or before this date, the commissioner of registration in each county shall submit to the Attorney General a plan providing for evening registration for the primary election.**

N.J.S.A. 19:31-2

**In counties where there is a superintendent of elections, that office serves as the commissioner of registration; in all other counties it's the county board of elections.

March 1

Governor Commissions County Election Board Members

On or before this date, the Governor shall issue commissions to the two county board of election members nominated by the two political parties in each county.

N.J.S.A. 19:6-18

March 1

Notice by Chairperson of the State Committee in a Year when a Governor is to be Elected

Chairperson of the state committee of a political party shall, on or before this date, notify in writing the chairperson of each county committee of the number of male or female members (of the state committee) or members with less than one full vote, to be elected from the county at the ensuing primary election.

N.J.S.A. 19:23-1

March 1 - 15

Organize: County Boards of Election

At ten o'clock a.m. on the second Tuesday of March (March 9th) or on such day as they may agree upon within the first fifteen days of March, the county board shall meet at the courthouse or other place and organize. Before entering upon the performance of their duties they shall take and subscribe an oath or affirmation before the county clerk.

N.J.S.A. 19:6-22, N.J.S.A. 19:6-23

March 25

Deadline for Creating, Abolishing, Dividing or Consolidating an Election District

(75 days before Primary Election)

No county board shall create, abolish, divide or consolidate an election district in the period commencing 75 days before the primary election through the day of the general election.

N.J.S.A. 19:4-15

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March 31

Unit of Representation - Election Districts

(on or before April 1st)

Before April 1st, the chairperson of the county committee of the two political parties shall certify to each municipal clerk the unit of representation in such municipality together with the enumeration of election districts within such unit.

N.J.S.A. 19:5-3

April 1

Appointment of District Boards

On or before this date, the county board of election shall appoint the members of the district boards.

N.J.S.A. 19:6-3

April 1

Notice to Clerk by County Chairs

On or before April 1, the chair of each county committee of the two political parties shall file with the county clerk the number of male or female members (of the state committee) or members with less than one full vote, to be elected from the county at the ensuing primary election.

N.J.S.A. 19:23-1

April 1

Certified List of Polling Places

On or before this date, municipal clerks shall certify to the county boards suggested lists of polling places.

N.J.S.A. 19:8-2

April 4 - April 18

Notice of Requirements to Vote in Primary Election; Publication

County commissioners of registration to publish notice of requirements to vote in primary. Notice to be published once during each of the 2 calendar weeks next preceding the week in which the 50th day next preceding the primary election.

N.J.S.A. 19:23-45.1

April 9

Notice to County Clerks and County Boards of Election; Available Offices and Public Questions

(60 days before Primary Election)

In every year wherein electors of President and Vice-President of the United States, U.S. Senator(s), member(s) of the House of Representatives, a Governor, Senator(s) or member(s) of the General Assembly for any county, or any of them are to be elected, or any public question to be submitted to the voters of the entire state, the Attorney General shall deliver to the clerk of every county and the county boards wherein such election is to be held, a notice stating that certain officers are to be elected and public question is to be submitted to the voters at the ensuing general election.

N.J.S.A. 19:12-1

April 10 - May 9

Notice of Primary Election

(30 days before the close of registration for the Primary Election)

Each county board shall cause a general notice to be published providing information on the upcoming Primary Election.*

N.J.S.A. 19:12-7

**Under current law the primary election is held only for the Democratic and Republican parties.*

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April 12

Petition Filing and Acceptance Deadline

(Before 4:00 p.m. of the 57th day before Primary Election)

Petitions addressed to the Attorney General, the county clerks or municipal clerk, to nominate candidates for the primary election shall be filed with such offices respectively.

N.J.S.A. 19:23-14

April 15

Amendment of Defective Petition for Primary Election Candidates

(3 days after filing deadline)

Last day to amend petitions of nomination in matters of substance or of form but not to add signatures.

N.J.S.A. 19:23:20

April 16

Objections to Nomination Petitions for Primary Election Candidates

(Within 4 days of filing deadline)

Any objections to nomination petitions must be duly made in writing and filed with the officer with whom the original petition was filed no later than the fourth day after the last day for the filing of petitions.

N.J.S.A. 19:13-10

April 18

Publish Notice - Military Service and Civilian Absentee Voters

(Prior to the 50th day before Primary Election)

No later than this date, the county clerk shall publish separate notices to civilian absentee voters and military service voters who may desire to apply for a military service ballot or for a civilian absentee ballot for the Primary Elections.

N.J.S.A. 19:57-7

April 19

Notice from County Clerk of Offices to be Filled

(No later than 50 days before Primary Election)

Every county clerk shall deliver to each municipal clerk and the county board in counties of the first class, a notice of officers whose terms will expire and who will be chosen at the ensuing general election.

N.J.S.A. 19:12-5

April 19

Change of Party Affiliation Declaration Forms to be Filed

(50 days before Primary Election)

On or before this date, a voter desiring to change his or her party affiliation must file a political party affiliation declaration form with the municipal clerk or county commissioner of registration in order to vote in the primary election.

N.J.S.A. 19:23-45

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April 19

Notice of Officers to be Elected at General Election

(50 days before Primary Election)

County clerks shall provide to each municipal clerk a copy of the notice received from the Attorney General of the officer(s) to be elected at the ensuing general election.

N.J.S.A. 19:12-3

April 21

County Clerk to Transmit Candidate Names to Election Law Enforcement Commission

(48 days before Primary Election)

The county clerk shall transmit the names, addresses, party affiliations together with the slogans and designations of all candidates received from the municipal clerks to the Election Law Enforcement Commission in the form and manner prescribed by the Commission and shall notify the Commission immediately upon the withdrawal of a petition of nomination.

N.J.S.A. 19:23-14

April 21

Filing Certificate to Fill Vacancy of a Party Candidate

(48 days before Primary Election)

No later than this date, three signers on a petition for public office constituting a committee on vacancies may file a certificate to fill a vacancy with the Attorney General and County Clerk. The name of the candidate shall be immediately certified to the proper municipal clerks.

N.J.S.A. 19:23-12

April 22

County Clerk Certifies Candidate Names to Municipal Clerks and to Election Law Enforcement Commission

(47 days before Primary Election)

County clerk to certify all persons certified by the Attorney general, and the names of all persons endorsed in the petitions filed in his/her office, to the clerk of each municipality concerned in his/her county. County clerk shall in addition, forward this information regarding persons, other than candidates for federal office, to the Election law Enforcement Commission.

N.J.S.A. 19:23-22

April 22

Determination of Petition Challenge for Primary Election Candidates

(10 days after the last day for filing nomination petitions)

Validity of objection to petitions of nomination to be determined on or before this date.

N.J.S.A. 19:13-11

If such determination is made after initial certification of candidates by Attorney General, an amended certification will be issued

April 22

County & Municipal Clerk Drawing for Ballot Positions

(47 days before Primary Election)

Federal, state and county officers' names to be drawn for primary election ballot position by the county clerk at his or her office at 3:00 p.m. Municipal Clerk to draw names for Local Partisan Municipal Elections at 3:00 p.m. at his or her office.

N.J.S.A. 19:23-24

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April 26

Recourse to Court by Candidate for Protection of Rights

(12 days after Petition filing deadline)

Last day for candidate to appeal to the Superior Court to protect his or her rights under petition of nomination.
N.J.S.A. 19:13-12

April 29

Mailing of Absentee Ballots

As soon as practicable after the 40th day preceding the primary election, the county clerk shall forward a civilian absentee ballot or military service absentee ballot to each approved applicant.

N.J.S.A. 19:57-11

May 10

Evening Registration

(29 days before Primary Election)

Evening registration shall be made available in the office of each commissioner of registration between the hours of 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.

N.J.S.A. 19:31-2

May 10

Last Day to Register to Vote for Upcoming Primary Election

(29 days before Primary Election)

Last day to register for upcoming primary election.
N.J.S.A. 19:31-6

May 14

Polling Places Certified

Before May 15th the county board shall certify a list of polling places to the sheriff, county clerk, superintendent of elections and municipal clerks.

N.J.S.A. 19:8-4

May 15

Inaccessible Polling Places Certified - Report to Attorney General

Before this date the county board shall report to the Attorney General a list of polling places in the county, specifying any found inaccessible.

N.J.S.A. 19:8-3.4

May 18 - May 29

Instruction of Election Officers

(Not less than 10, nor more than 21 days before the Primary Election)

During this time period, the county boards of election shall cause new members of the district boards who are to serve in the election districts to be instructed in the conduct of elections.

N.J.S.A. 19:50-1

May 25

Organization Meeting of District Boards of Election

(Second Tuesday before Primary Election)

Members of the district board to meet and organize on or before this date for the primary election.

N.J.S.A. 19:6-10

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May 25

Filing of Appointments or Applications for Challengers

(Second Tuesday before Primary Election)

On or before this date, the appointment of or application for challengers shall be filed with the county boards.

N.J.S.A. 19:7-3

May 30 - June 5

Notice of Primary Election Published

(Once during the calendar week before the week in which the Primary Election is held)

The county board in each county shall cause a general notice to be published in the county during this period of time.

N.J.S.A. 19:12-7

June 1

Absentee Ballot Applications by Mail

(Not less than 7 days prior to election)

Last day to receive mail applications for military service and civilian absentee ballots. At any time not less than seven days prior to an election, a military service or civilian absentee voter may apply to the county clerk for an absentee ballot.

N.J.S.A. 19:57-4, N.J.S.A. 19:57-6

June 1

County Boards Advertise Challenge and Complaint Procedures at Polling Places

(7 days before Primary Election)

Notice to be published on this date.

N.J.S.A. 19:12-9

June 2

Sample Ballots, Prepared and Mailed

(Wednesday before Primary Election)

Sample ballots shall be prepared and deposited in the post office on or before 12 noon on the Wednesday preceding the primary election day.

N.J.S.A. 19:23-34

June 4

Deadline for Application for Faxed Federal Ballot

(on or before the 4th day before the Primary Election)

Military or overseas civilian voter who wishes to receive a ballot by fax for the federal Primary Election, must apply to the county clerk no later than the fourth day before the primary election.

N.J.S.A. 19:59-4

June 7

Deadline for Civilian Absentee Ballot Application in Person

(on any day up to 3 p.m. of the day before the election)

Any civilian absentee voter who fails to apply in writing for an absentee ballot within 7 days prior to the primary election (June 1) may apply in person, or by authorized messenger if the voter is sick or confined, to the county clerk on any day up to 3 p.m. of the day before the election.

N.J.S.A. 19:57-4

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June 7

County Boards Advertise Challenge and Complaint Procedures

(Day before Primary Election)

Notice to be published on this date.

N.J.S.A. 19:12-9

June 8

Primary Election Day

(Tuesday after first Monday in June)

N.J.S.A. 19:2-1

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

N.J.S.A. 19:23-40

June 8

Petition Filing Deadline for Independent Candidates for General Election

(Before 4:00 p.m. of the day of the holding of the Primary Election)

All such petitions shall be filed with the appropriate election office.

N.J.S.A. 19:13-9

June 8

Deadline for Submission of Absentee Ballot to County Boards of Election

Absentee ballots may be returned to the county boards of election to which it is addressed or delivered personally by the voter or by authorized messenger up until 8:00 p.m. on the day of election.

N.J.S.A. 19:57-23

June 8 - June 23

Locking Counter Compartment of Voting Machines Used in Primary Election

(15 days following election)

The counter compartment of the voting machines shall be locked for a period of 15 days following the completion of the count by the district board, unless ordered open by a Superior Court Judge

N.J.S.A. 19:52-6

June 14

Objections to Nomination Petitions for General Election Candidates

(no later than 4 days after filing deadline)

Any objections to nomination petitions must be duly made in writing and filed with the officer with whom the original petition was filed no later than the fourth day after the last day for the filing of petitions.

N.J.S.A. 19:13-10

June 15

Write-in Nominations, Acceptance

(7 days after Primary Election)

On or before this date, any person who did not file a petition for the primary election, but received a nomination at said election by having his name written on the ballot, shall file his acceptance with the county clerk, for municipal and county offices, or the Attorney General for state and federal offices.

N.J.S.A. 19:23-16

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June 15

Duplicate Nominations for Same Office

(7 days after Primary Election)

On or before this date, a candidate nominated at the primary election for the same office by more than one party or group of petitioners shall designate the column in which his name is to appear on the general election ballot.

N.J.S.A. 19:14-9

June 16

Municipal Clerk to Certify to County Clerk and County Board Names of County Committee Persons

(Within 8 days after Primary Election)

Last day for municipal clerk to certify to the county clerk and county board two copies of the names and post office addresses of the persons elected as members of the county committee of the several political parties, together with the ward, district or unit which said persons represent.

N.J.S.A. 19:23-54

June 18

Deadline for Filing of Election Contest Petition

(Up to 10 days after Primary Election)

A petition to contest any primary election result must be filed in Superior Court not later than the 10th day after the primary election or within 10 days after the results of any court ordered recount has been determined or announced.

N.J.S.A. 19:29-3

June 18

Canvass of Votes by County Clerks

(10 days after Primary Election)

The county clerks shall within 10 days after primary election transmit to the Attorney General a statement showing the total number of votes cast for the offices of United States Senator and member of the House of Representatives.

N.J.S.A. 19:23-55

June 18

Amendment of Defective Petition for Independent General Election Candidates

(On or before 10th day after petition filing deadline)

Last day to amend petitions of nomination in matters of substance or of form but not to add signatures.

N.J.S.A. 19:13-13

June 18

Determination of Petition Challenge to Independent General Election Candidates

(On or before 10th day after filing deadline)

Validity of objection to petitions of nominations to be determined on or before this date thereafter Attorney General shall canvass County Clerk's statement and issue Certificates of Nomination to successful nominees.

N.J.S.A. 19:13-11, N.J.S.A. 19:23-57

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June 19

Recount Applications to Judge of Superior Court

(Second Saturday after Primary Election)

Applications for recount of votes cast for a candidate at the primary election shall be made on or before this date.*

N.J.S.A. 19:28-1

*N.J.S.A. 19:28-1 also provides for the filing of a recount application on or before the second Saturday following the declaration of any Board Canvassers. This is a deadline that is not fixed to a specific date. It will depend upon the actual date that a board meets.

June 23

Application for Recheck of Voting Machines

(Within 15 days after Primary Election)

Deadline to apply for a recheck of voting machines by defeated candidates.

N.J.S.A. 19:52-6

July 1

Evening Registration Plan

(On or before July 1st)

On or before this date, the commissioner of registration in each county shall submit to the Attorney General plans for evening registration for the general election.

N.J.S.A. 19:31-2

July 26

Petition Filing Deadline for Electors of President and Vice President

(Before 4:00 p.m. of the 99th day preceding the general election)

N.J.S.A. 19:13-9

August 2

Proposed Amendments to the NJ Constitution - Public Questions - Publication

(Not less than 3 months prior to submission to the people)

A proposed constitutional amendment to be voted on throughout the state at the general election must be published in the newspaper prior to this date.

NJ Constitution, Article IX, Par. 3

August 9

Attorney General, Statement to County Clerks of Nominations, Vacancies

(not later than 86 days before General Election)

On or before this date, the Attorney General shall certify the names of the candidates nominated at the Primary Election or direct petition for federal offices to the county clerks. Such statements shall include party affiliation, if any, of the persons so nominated.

N.J.S.A. 19:13-22

August 9

County Clerk Drawing for Ballot Positions

(85 days before General Election)

At 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon of the 85th day prior to the day of the General Election the County clerk to draw to determine which columns the political parties which made nominations at the primary election shall occupy on the ballots and the position of names of candidates nominated by petition.

N.J.S.A. 19:14-12

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August 20

Public Questions Submitted by County and Municipal Governments to County Clerk

(74 days before the General Election)

Last day the governing body of any municipality or of any county may file a request with the county clerk to have a public question appear on the general election ballot.

N.J.S.A. 19:37-1

August 24

Public Questions - Other Than Proposed Amendments to the NJ Constitution - Final Action By Governor or Legislature

(Not less than 70 days following final action of the Governor or the Legislature)

On or before this date the final action of the Governor or the Legislature is necessary to submit a public question to the people of the entire state at the general election.

NJ Constitution, Article II, Sec. 1, P. 2

September 2 - October 3

Notice of Election

(30 days before the closing of registration books for the General Election)

Each county board shall cause a general notice to be published providing information on the upcoming general election.

N.J.S.A. 19:12-7

September 3

Deadline for Independent Candidate to Decline Nomination

(60 days before General Election)

Last day independent candidate can withdraw. Notice shall be provided to appropriate filing office.

N.J.S.A. 19:13-16

September 3

Deadline for Submission of Public Question Proposed By the Electorate and Adopted By Local or County Government to be filed with County Clerk

(60 days before General Election)

Last day to submit municipal public question to county clerk to print upon official ballot.

N.J.S.A. 19:37-1.1

September 9

Deadline for Filling of Vacancy for Independent Candidate

(Not later than 54 days before the General Election)

A Vacancy (created at least 60 days before the general election) of an independent candidate may be filled no later than this date by way of the filing of a petition of a substitute candidate.

N.J.S.A. 19:13-19

September 13

Last Day Vacancy Can Occur for Primary Election Nominees

(51 days before General Election)

This is the last day vacancy can occur for a candidate nominated at the primary election.

N.J.S.A. 19:13-20

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September 13

Publish Notice - Military Service Absentee and Civilian Absentee Voters

(50 days before General Election)

No later than this date, county clerks shall publish separate notices to civilian absentee voters and military service absentee voters who may desire to apply for a military service ballot or for a civilian absentee ballot for the General Election.

N.J.S.A. 19:57-7

September 15

Deadline for Filling Primary Nominee Vacancy

(48 days before General Election)

Last day to fill a vacancy of primary nominees.

N.J.S.A. 19:13-20

September 20

Official Ballot Ready for Printer

(43 days before General Election)

On this date, the county clerk shall have ready for the printer a copy of the contents of official ballots.

N.J.S.A. 19:14-1

September 23

Mailing of Absentee Ballots by County Clerks

As soon as practicable after this date preceding the general election, the county clerk shall forward a civilian absentee or military service absentee ballot to each approved applicant.

N.J.S.A. 19:57-11

October 4

Evening Registration

(29 days before the General Election)

Evening registration shall be made available in the office of each commissioner of registration between the hours of 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.

N.J.S.A. 19:31-2

October 4

Last Day to Register to Vote for the Upcoming General Election

(29 days before the General Election)

Last day to register for upcoming General Election.

N.J.S.A. 19:31-6

October 12 - October 23

Instruction of Election Officers

(Not less than 10 nor more than 21 days before the General Election)

During this time period, the county board of election shall cause the members of the district boards who are to serve in the election districts to be instructed in the conduct of elections.

N.J.S.A. 19:50-1

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October 18

Voter Registry Lists - Certification and Transmission

(15 days prior to the General Election)

On or before this date, the commissioner of registration shall certify and transmit to the county clerk a complete list of all registered voters.

N.J.S.A. 19:31-18

October 19

Filing of Appointments or Applications for Challengers

(Second Tuesday before General Election)

On or before this date, the appointment of or application for challengers shall be filed with the county board.

N.J.S.A. 19:7-3

October 22

Registered Voters, Certified Count

(At least 10 days before General Election)

Each commissioner of registration shall transmit and certify to the Attorney General a report of the total number of registrations in that county.

N.J.S.A. 19:31-14.5

October 24 - 30

Notice of General Election

(Once during the calendar week before the week in which the General Election is held)

Each county board shall cause a general notice to be published providing information on the upcoming general election.

N.J.S.A. 19:12-7

October 26

County Boards Advertise Challenge and Complaint Procedures at Polling Places

(7th day preceding General Election)

Notice to be published on this date.

N.J.S.A. 19:12-9

October 26

Absentee Ballot Applications by Mail

(Not less than 7 days prior to election)

Last day to receive mail applications for military service and civilian absentee ballots. At any time not less than seven days prior to an election, a military service or civilian absentee voter may apply to the county clerk for an absentee ballot.

N.J.S.A. 19:57-4, N.J.S.A. 19:57-6

October 27

Sample Ballots, Prepared and Mailed

(By 12 noon on the Wednesday before General Election)

Sample ballots shall be prepared and deposited in the post office addressed to each registered voter on or before 12 noon on the Wednesday preceding General Election day.

N.J.S.A. 19:14-25

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October 29

Deadline for Application for Faxed Overseas Federal Ballot

(On or before the 4th day preceding the election)

A qualified overseas voter who wishes to receive a faxed federal ballot for the General Election, must apply to the county clerk no later than the fourth day before the general election.

N.J.S.A. 19:59-4

November 1

Deadline for Civilian Absentee Ballot Application In Person

(On any day up to 3:00 p.m. on the day before the election)

Any civilian absentee voter who fails to apply by mail, for an absentee ballot 7 days prior to the general election (October 26th) may apply in person, or by authorized messenger if the voter is sick or confined, to the county clerk on any day up to 3:00 p.m. of the day before the election (Nov. 1).

N.J.S.A. 19:57-4

November 1

County Board Advertises Challenge and Complaint Procedures at Polling Places

(Day before General Election)

Notice to be published on this date.

N.J.S.A. 19:12-9

November 2

General Election Day

(Tuesday next after first Monday in November)

N.J.S.A. 19:2-3

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

N.J.S.A. 19:15-2

November 2

Certified Statements of Election Results

Election results certificates, completed by district boards, shall be delivered to the municipal clerks, county clerks, and superintendents of elections as required.

N.J.S.A. 19:17-3

November 2

Deadline for Submission of Absentee Ballot to County Boards of Election

(By 8:00 p.m. on the day of election)

Absentee ballots may be returned to the county boards of election to which it is addressed or delivered personally by the voter or by authorized messenger up until 8:00 p.m. on the day of election.

N.J.S.A. 19:57-23

November 2 - 17

Impoundment Period for Voting Machines Used in the General Election

(15 days following election)

The counter compartment of the voting machines shall be locked for a period of 15 days following the completion of the count by the district election officers.

N.J.S.A. 19:52-6

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November 8

County Board of Canvassers

(Monday next after election day)

On this date, the board of county canvassers shall meet for the purpose of certifying the canvass made by the county clerk. County canvassers can have up to two adjournments.

N.J.S.A. 19:19-1, N.J.S.A. 19:19-4, N.J.S.A. 19:19-6

November 13

Recount Applications to Judge of Superior Court*

(On or before second Saturday after General Election)

Applications for recount of votes cast for a candidate at the general election shall be made on or before this date.

N.J.S.A. 19:28-1

* N.J.S.A. 19:28-1 also provides for the filing of a recount application on or before the second Saturday following the declaration of any board of canvassers. This is a deadline that is not fixed to a specific date. It will depend upon the actual date that a board meets.

November 17

Application for Recheck of Voting Machines

(Within 15 days after General Election)

Deadline to apply for recheck of voting machines by defeated candidate or ten (10) qualified voters (in the case of a public question).

N.J.S.A. 19:52-6

November 30

Board of State Canvassers

(On or before the 28th day after General Election)

Board of State Canvassers to meet on or before this date to certify the election of state officers.

N.J.S.A. 19:21-1

December 2

Deadline to File Election Contest Petition

(On or before the 30th day after General Election)

The petition contesting any election to public office shall generally be filed in Superior Court no later than 30 days after the election.

N.J.S.A. 19:29-3